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COUNTRY Yugoslavia
SUBJECT Airforce Organization, Disposition
and Personnel

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Organization of the Air Force:

1. The Yugoslav Army Air Force is organized quite separately and independently, except that it does not yet constitute a separate ministry, but only a command within the Ministry of National Defense.
2. The Air Force Command commands and operates along two lines:
 - (a) From the operational point of view, commanding operational units. This includes: organization; formation; training of flight and other personnel; instruction and advanced training of flight and service personnel; tactical and strategic use of units in peace and war; drill; political education (the aim of which is advanced instruction in Communist doctrine).
 - (b) From the administrative point of view, to which belong the tasks of supplying technical equipment and subsistence stores, airfield management, ground service in general, meteorological service, radio service, photographic service, etc.

Organization from the Operational Point of View:

3. The Air Force as a whole is divided into four divisions:
 - (a) First Division [divizija] (Assault), with division headquarters in Skoplje; equipped with Soviet Stormovik type planes. Its own organization consists of the following regiments:
 - (1) 421st Assault Regiment [puk], with headquarters in Nis (Serbia). Airfields in the Medosevac and Trupele plains.

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- (2) 422nd Assault Regiment, with headquarters in Skoplje.
 - (3) 423rd Assault Regiment, with headquarters in Skoplje, and with one squadron (12 planes) attached to the Belerno Gumno airfield near Bitolj.
- (b) Second Division (Assault), equipped as the First; division headquarters in Zagreb. Consists of the following regiments:
- (1) 553rd Assault Regiment - Pleso (Zagreb) airfield.
 - (2) 554th Assault Regiment - Lučko (Zagreb) airfield.
 - (3) 555th Assault Regiment - Velika Gorica (Zagreb) airfield.
- (c) Third Fighter Air Division, with headquarters in Ljubljana (People's Republic of Slovenia). Equipped with planes of the Soviet Yak-5, Yak-7, and Yak-9 types.
- (1) 112th Fighter Regiment, with airfield at Ljubljana, with one squadron transferred to Pula / Pola 7.
 - (2) 113th Fighter Regiment, located in Ljubljana, with one squadron temporarily located in Skoplje. In addition, one or two patrols are attached to the Maribor airfield.
- (d) Fourth Bomber Division, located at Sombor (Bačka). It is equipped with Soviet P-2 (Petlyakov-2) light bombers. Its own organization consists of the following regiments:
- (1) 41st Bomber Regiment, located in Sombor.
 - (2) 42nd Bomber Regiment, located in Sombor.
 - (3) 43rd Bomber Regiment, located in Sombor. One squadron / eskadrila / of this regiment has been transferred to Skoplje, and is attached to the First Assault Division. One squadron likewise is in Ljubljana. This shift of squadrons takes place very frequently, depending on the world political situation.
- (e) Besides the previously mentioned formations there are other independent units, which are under the direct command of the Air Force Command, as follows:
- (1) 111th Reconnaissance Regiment, with headquarters in Mostar, equipped with old British Hurricane and Spitfire planes. Efforts are being made to form a division, with a strength of two reconnaissance regiments, out of this regiment. Banja Luka is expected to serve as auxiliary airfield.
 - (2) The Independent Transport Regiment located in Zemun. Its own organization consists of three squadrons. It is equipped with the following planes:
 - 6 Ju-52 (German make) planes
 - 8 Douglas planes
 - 20 LI-2 (Soviet-made Douglas) planes.
 - (3) The organization of another transport regiment is projected, to be located in Novi Sad, where there is a military parachute school.
 - (4) The commander of this [sic] transport regiment is Major General Djordje Jovanovic, who is concurrently in charge of the civil air transport organization Jugoslovenski Aerotransport, which is located at Belgrade-Zemun. This

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transportation is more for military and Communist officials than for civilians.

(f) **Military Air Academy.** This term covers military and aviation schools for specialist personnel and now actually constitutes a fifth air division.

- (1) The military academy in Pančevo prepares older Army and Air Force cadets from the youth accented from the middle classes. This school has the task of theoretical instruction of the future pilots, bombardiers, and radiotelegraphers, who then take a practical course in the schools listed below:
- (2) The Pančevo Bombardier School, with its own Jabuka airfield.
- (3) The Běka Pilot School (the Běka airfield near Petrovgrad now has a new name, Trenjanin). There are a number of girls in this school, who teach in the Pilot School.
- (4) The Military Parachute School in Novi Sad. The Commandant of this school is Captain Miodrag Banjac, a favorite of Marshal Tito. He is regarded as one of the best parachute acers. This is a rank behind which a Soviet parachute officer-instructor is concealed. From the standpoint of instruction the Civil Parachute School in Vršac is under the command of this school.
- (5) The Specialists' School in Rajlovac near Sarajevo. Radiotelegraphers and mechanics are taught in this school.

4. All the airfields described above are very well managed, enlarged, and supplied with all equipment for flying and other operations: meteorological stations, radio stations, telegraph and telephone communications, lighting equipment including mobile reflectors for night flying, command posts, signal equipment, concrete runways, motor and rail communications with cities, enclosed hangars, machine shops, warehouses for storage of gasoline and oil, tank trucks, plenty of buildings for housing the various sections necessary for the command and management of an airfield.

5. The airfields are well guarded, by units of KMOJ, the Militia, and agents of UDBA. Entrance is strictly forbidden to civilians except with special authorization. In the daytime, and above all at night, the airfield itself and its immediate vicinity are patrolled.

Further Organization of Lower Units from the Operational Point of View:

6. Air regiments, consisting of 30 squadrons each, constitute the highest tactical unit.
7. Squadrons are divided into patrols and have four patrols each. Each patrol [patrols] has three or four planes. Accordingly each air squadron has 13 planes at its disposal (12 to 15 planes in the patrols and one for the command).
8. A regiment has 41 planes, counting two planes for regimental headquarters.
9. The regiments are purely combat units, and have no organs for supply within their own organization, as supply is under the jurisdiction of the territorial commands.
10. Each squadron has four reserve planes; that is, each patrol has one reserve aircraft.

Organization from the Point of View of Territorial Administration:

11. Yugoslavia as a whole is divided into four regional air commands.
12. The commandant of the territorial echelon is Major General Ambrozic Vinko [Ambrozic should probably be the surname], who actually serves as executive officer of the Air Force.

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13. The actual commandant of the Air Force is Lieutenant General Zdenko Slebić.

14. The regional air commands are as follows:

- (a) The regional air command (VOK) with headquarters in Novi Sad, consisting of the territory of Vojvodina and Northern Serbia. The following airfields are under its command: Novi Sad, Sombor, Ečka, Pančevo, Jasko, Kovin, Bela Crkva, Zemun, and Vršac.
- (b) The regional air command (VOK) with headquarters in Skopje, covering the territory of Macedonia and central Serbia, has the following airfields: Skopje, Bitolj, Kraljevo, and (in preparation) Aradjevac.
- (c) The Third Regional Air Command (VOK), with command headquarters in Mostar, comprises the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the southern part of Dalmatia, and has the following airfields under its command: Mostar, Sarajevo, (Bilovaci and Butmir), Podgorica, and Dubrovnik.
- (d) The regional air command (VOK) with headquarters in Zagreb, which comprises the territory of Croatia and Slovenia: Ljubljana, Velika Gorica, Pleso, Lučko, Cerkije, Brezice, Borovo, Banja Luka, Rijeka, Zemunik (near Zadra), Slat (Sinj).

15. The regional air commands have the following duties:

- (a) Selection, organization, building, and maintenance of airfields and all equipment for them;
- (b) Security of the airfields on the ground from operations from the ground and from the air;
- (c) Supply of technical equipment and other necessities;
- (d) Supply of subsistence requirements and clothing supplies;
- (e) Maintenance and operation of meteorological stations;
- (f) Maintenance and operation of radio and radiogoniometric stations;
- (g) Maintenance and operation of radar stations. So far there are only two radar stations in Yugoslavia, one in Pančevo, the other in Dubrovnik. They were purchased secretly in America, through the agency of the well-known violinist Balokovic and the Yugoslav Embassy.
- (h) Fire-fighting and police services;
- (i) Medical service for the airfields.

16. The regional air commands are further divided, from the point of view of organization and command, into airfield commands, which are made up of the following: commandant, executive officer, political commissar.

17. These three persons constitute the command part of headquarters, and have the following sections under their command: political section, military section (military OSHA), financial section, personnel section, supply section, technical section, engineer section, meteorological service, motor company, and auxiliary company (this takes care of airfield security by posting the guard). The fire-fighting and medical services belong to this company.

Supplementary Details:

18. The commandant of the Fourth VOK at Ljubljana is Major Stamenkovic.

19. The Army Post Office of the Fourth VOK is #2143.

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20. The commandant of the Ljubljana airfield is Captain Kospic Djuro / surname should probably be Kospic /.

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21. [REDACTED]
22. The Instructor of the Civil Parachute School, located at Vrsac, is Instructor Ivan Gorjup.
23. The Instructor of the Parachute Courses, which are held in cities and towns, is Instructor Stanko Majnik.
24. This course lasts three months. Training is theoretical and practical. Its purpose is to interest the youth in / parachuting /, especially the rural youth, as much as possible. Graduates of this course later are called to spend their military service in the Military Parachute School.
25. In the vicinity of Krsko, at the village of Krška Vas, a secret airfield is carved out of the forest. Sometimes the Russians also use it, and then they are guarded by troops from KNOJ and the Militia.
26. In the military airfields, which are located near the Italian, Austrian, and Greek frontiers and near the Dalmatian coast, there are always aircraft in each patrol in strict readiness, and provided with the most secure pilots, so as to be able to take off at a given command in the shortest possible time, to prevent the flight of unknown enemy aircraft, as the Communists call all Anglo-American planes.
27. They often fly for days in the vicinity, as well as along the frontiers themselves and along the Adriatic Sea, looking for foreign planes, to prevent violation of the Yugoslav sky, i.e. to prevent foreign planes which might fly over Yugoslavia from taking aerial photographs of military objectives, and especially from dropping war materiel to the Chetniks, of whom they are very much afraid.
28. Orders are in force, issued by the Air Force Command, to the effect that planes which attempt to fly over Yugoslavia, outside the prescribed air lanes, may be shot down at once.
29. Near Celje, at Petrovč, there is a secret airfield. Likewise there is one near Trbovlje at the village of Petelinjava / sic / Vas. These airfields have been discovered because of the use of unfamiliar Yugoslav aircraft.

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